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Dining Room and Kitchen Under Union Hall - 1900

In February 1900, the Society considered an article "To see what action the parish would take in regard to building a dining room and kitchen in the basement of the Church." D. W. Robbins, Jas. H. Wilkins and S. J. Anthony were chosen a committee to draw a plan of such work, and estimate the cost.

This committee on plans and estimates reported at an adjourned meeting on March 3, 1900. "The plan submitted was that we build a dining hall, kitchen, two cloak rooms and two toilet rooms. The excavation and mason work to be as follows. On the south side and east end to build two and one half ft of stone work and five feet of brick work with windows to correspond with those in the hall. Also a door on east end to enter kitchen, on north side and west end not to remove foundation but to excavate within a safe distance of said foundations. The dining hall not to be less than 40 x 25 ft and the kitchen about 15 ft. square. The floor of dining room, kitchen and cloak rooms to be cemented and said rooms to be plastered. The entrance to basement to be under the stairs on south side. The estimate cost of stock and labor of mason work from $400 to $450." This plan, after lengthy discussion, was adopted with some slight changes, one immediately apparent being that the entrance to the basement was placed under the church stairs on the north of the building.

At the same Parish meeting further changes in Union Hall were voted.

One was the removal of "the partition of the kitchen" which it will be remembered was in the small space now occupied by the gallery on the west. The stationary stage was also to be removed, new floors put in where needed, and a "band stand and stage" built so that it could be removed when not in use.

The building committee S. J. Anthony, E. B. Rose and D. W. Robbins were elected with instructions to let work by the job or by the day, as they thought for the best interest of the Society.

A committee chosen at the February meeting to solicit money and labor for the work consisted of E. J. Carr, E. B. Rose and N. W. Wilson. This committee too, reported at the adjourned meeting on March 3rd. E. J. Carr had the sum of $90 cash pledged by subscription, Elmon B. Rose the sum of $100, and Capt. N. W. Wilson the sum of $10. cash and about $100 in labor.

Money for the project was raised by subscription, and $78.90 was appropriated from the last tea party. It was also voted in August 1900 that the Treasurer borrow $500, and Capt. N. W. Wilson was authorized and instructed to execute a promissory note for that sum. In October of that year it was voted "to form a stock company to furnish the money to complete the work." This was done among the following men of the Parish- Capt. N. W. Wilson, E. J. Carr, D. W. Robbins, E. B. Rose and S. B. Hall. Shares were issued which were later redeemed. The last of these were paid by the Ladies Circle, and Mrs. Nettie O. Wilson has in her possession some of the shares, with

stamps affixed that were returned when payment was made.

In April 1900, even after arrangements had been made for the proposed changes a different plan for remodeling was urged by some. At the April 2nd Parish Meeting the Clerk's record concludes "After quite a lengthy discussion on the basement and repairs of Church, it was voted to adjourn until Saturday, Apr. 7, 1900 7:30 P.M.

At the adjourned meeting "T. A. Green presented a plan for remodeling Church and changing stairs". Mr. Green's plan drawn on the backs of two pieces of flowered wall paper, is still in existence and provided for quite pronounced changes in Church and Hall, and did not include excavation of the basement. Both church and hall auditoriums on the proposed plan are reduced in size and instead of two flights of stairs there appears only one, and that in the center. The dining room and kitchen are on the first floor plan with Union Hall, and a "Ladys Parlor" and another unnamed room (both 11' x 18') are on the second floor plan. There are also smaller detailed drawings which are not marked, but seem to indicate suggestions for perhaps two round stained glass windows on the east wall of the church on either side of the pulpit. The entire inside appearance of the church and hall would have been radically changed if these plans had been adopted.

There seems to have been a great deal of discussion at the Parish meeting when these plans were presented and again at an adjourned meeting April 21st.-

"T. A. Green talked on plan of remodeling church and stairs. A vote was taken on adoption of the plan. Voted not to accept. The basement question was then taken up. After a thorough investigation it was voted to continue work thereon".

Furnace Installed - 1900.

At a Special Parish Meeting in December, 1900, it was voted to install a furnace in the basement to heat the hall and the church.

It was arranged to pay for this expense by subscription, by the proceeds of a ball and some parties, and by taking for that purpose "about money now in the treasury."

Town Records. Book 9. Pages 477 and 481 - Art. 16.

Church Insured - 1900

At various times in the Records had appeared the suggestion that the Parish Committee consider the matter of placing insurance on the Church, with no account of any definite steps being taken in the matter. The first time there is a record of payment for Insurance, is in the Expenditures for the year ending April 1, 1901, where there appears the item, $54.80 for "Insurance on Church building" Since that time insurance on the property has been regularly maintained.

Rent of Union Hall Raised - 1901

A vote by the Parish to raise the rent of Union Hall for the use of the town to seventy five dollars a year was taken in December 1901.

An article which appeared in the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on March 18, 1901, read "To see if the Town will vote to pay one hundred dollars per year for the use of Union Hall for town purposes" and this sum, a larger one than was requested by the Parish was voted. "It was voted to pay the First Congregational Society of Carlisle one hundred dollars per year for the use of Union Hall." (The First Religious Society has occasionally been thus designated in deeds, wills, and documents.)

- Clipping from Fowell Weekly Journal -

Rev. Walter E. Lane, Pastor, Fall 1901 - Summer 1902

Rev. Mr. Abbott's pastorate in Carlisle ended in the summer of 1901, and at a Parish Meeting on Nov. 16th of that year, it was voted to hire Rev. Walter E. Lane as a resident minister for one year.

"Rev. Walter Eustace Lane is a native of Gloucester and was born in 1866. He was educated in the public schools and in what is now known as Thornton Academy, Saco Me. For several years Mr. Lane was engaged in journalistic work on the 'Biddeford (Me.) Times' and the 'Lowell Citizen'.

"In 1888 he entered the Meadville Pa., Theological School, graduating in 1892 and in that same year he was ordained and installed at Ailsbol as pastor of the Second Unitarian Society. After two years' service there his health failed. He was settled later at Presque Isle, Me., and Rockville, Conn."

Rev. Walter E. Lane Married - 1902.

Mr. Lane was married on Feb. 18, 1902 at Rockville Conn. to Miss Anna B. Weyhe of Rockville.

On the twenty-first of February, Rev. and Mrs. Lane were given a reception in Union Hall, Carlisle and were presented with a combination writing desk and bookcase. The presentation speech was made by Daniel W. Robbins.

Rev. and Mrs. Lane lived in the west half of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Green's house. It was during Mr. Lane's Carlisle pastorate

- Towell Weekly Journal -

That their daughter Elinor was born on Nov. 27, 1904. She was christened in the First Parish Church by Mr. Lane's friend, Rev. A. D. K. Shurtleff of Chelmsford.

Installation of Rev. Walter E. Lane - 1902.

On April 26, 1902 it was voted to install Rev. Mr. Lane and Mrs. E. J. Carr, Miss Lillian Picker, Mrs. D. W. Robbins, Charles Forbush and Fred Robbins were chosen to confer with Mr. Lane and make necessary plans.

"The installation of Rev. Walter Eustace Lane as pastor of the First Religious Society of Carlisle took place Thursday the 22nd (May, 1902) at 2.30 o'clock in the Church in the presence of a large congregation including many representatives of neighboring churches, Chelmsford sending about 40. A profusion of potted plants, other greenery and flowers adorned the auditorium. Among the floral gifts was a bouquet of lilies of the valley from the old homestead of Ralph Waldo Emerson in Concord."

"Prior to opening the order of exercises Rev. C. A. Staples of Lexington announced that the council had voted to proceed with the installation"

"The exercises began with an anthem 'Come to me' effectively sung by the church quartette Mr. Frank Wilkins tenor; Mr. James Taylor, bass; Miss Faustina Wilkins soprano; Mrs. D. W. Robbins alto; Mrs. Mary A. Reynolds was organist."

"An invocation followed by Rev. A. D. K. Shurtleff of Chelmsford."

"Scriptural selections were read by Rev. Mr. Buckingham of Westford."

"The hymn beginning "Mysterious

Presence, Source of all' was next sung by the Congregation."

"An able sermon upon the theme 'The Light of the World' based upon the words found in John VIII 12 was preached by Rev. Charles C. St. John, Secretary of the (American) Unitarian) Association)."

The Prayer of Installation was by Rev. C. A. Staples of Lexington; Response "Peace be My God To Thee" by the Choir. Charge to the Pastor by Rev. Loren B. Macdonald of Concord; Right Hand of Fellowship by Rev. Edgar S. Wells of Billerica.

"Rev. A. N. Ames of the local (Orthodox) Church extended a warm welcome to the new pastor from his church and assured him of their sympathy in his efforts to enlarge the moral and spiritual welfare of the community."

The Address to the People was by Rev. Frederic Gill of Arlington and the Denominational Message by Rev. George N. Badger of Boston.

We are assured that the visitors, at the close of the exercises were "entertained with a fine collation" served in the new supper room.

In addition to the General Committee already mentioned the following sub committees are listed- "Reception" Capt N. W. Wilson; Chas. Fosbush, L. W. Robbins; Decorations, Miss Lillian Tucker Mrs. Florence Anthony, Miss Etta Rose, Miss Sarah Robbins, Arthur Lapsham; Collation, Mrs. E. J. Carr Mrs. Elmon Rose, Mrs. Gertie Blaisdell, Mrs. Alice Blaisdell, Miss Tucker; Ushers Fred Robbins, Baalis Blaisdell, Frank Blaisdell, Walds Robbins"

- Scratch -

Union Sunday School Christmas Party - 1903

Beginning about this time for several years, the Congregational and First Parish Sunday Schools held their Christmas parties together, sometimes in the Congregational Church and sometimes in Union Hall. These were pleasant neighborly gatherings, and the following newspaper account tells of the Christmas Party in 1903.

"A very pleasant evening was spent Christmas eve at Union Hall. The Unitarian Society extended a cordial invitation to the neighboring church and society to 'come and join us in the celebration'. A goodly number was present and many were the gifts distributed from the heavily laden trees. Mr. D. L. Chamberlin, superintendent of the Orthodox Sunday School was presented a very handsome Morris chair and purse of money for his faithful and efficient work. Rev. W. E. Lane received from his people a purse of over $20. None were forgotten, even the tiniest tot had a bag of candy."

"An interesting entertainment was given, under the direction of Mrs. W. E. Lane, by the children of the Sunday Schools entitled 'A Christmas Reunion,' Father Christmas and Mother Goose with their children. Recitations from the Mother Goose Melodies in character and familiar songs with appropriate words were sung. Father Christmas was personated by Sylvanus Hinkley his son Santa Claus by Arthur E. Lapham, and 'Mother Goose' by Mrs. Alden Davis in her own inimitable way."

Unity Guild - 1904

At the Annual Parish Meeting April 20, 1904 it was voted that a Committee of four be appointed to act with a Committee of the Unity Guild in regard to repairing the church and putting in new windows. This is the first reference in the Parish Records to the organization of young people known then as Unity Guild.

This group was an active organization in the Society until recent years, when lack of numbers caused its suspension. Later the name "Unity Guild" was changed by the National Unitarian Young People's Organization to "Young People's Religious Union" and more recently the name has become "American Unitarian Youth."

Church Redecorated - 1904

During the latter part of 1904 quite extensive repairs were made in the church and services on Sundays were held for some weeks in Union Hall.

The church ceiling was tabernacled, new windows were installed, the woodwork painted white, the walls papered in tan, and a new carpet was laid.

It was at this time that pews each side of the pulpit and facing it were removed, and also the pew doors which unfortunately were not put back. Several members of the Parish remember the pews at the front and the ones who occupied them! They also remember a Parish member who was very deaf, Selar Simonds who used to sit in one of the chairs beside the table in front of the pulpit, turned partly toward the ministery, in order to hear the sermon!

Services were again held in the newly decorated Church beginning Sunday, January 29, 1905; and since 1901, when Mr. Land came to preach here, services had been held on Sunday morning, instead of in the afternoon, as had been the case for some years previously.

Trustees Of Parish Funds - 1905

From the days of the separation of Town and Parish or shortly after there had been a Trustee or Trustees of Parish Funds. Originally these funds consisted of money received from the Blood Fund and on Monday, March 4th 1837, Isaiah Green was chosen a "Trustee to take charge of the Parish Fund." On March 23, 1837 he receipted to the Parish for "the following notes and money to be by me held in trust for the use of said Parish and be disposed of as they shall direct."

Later in 1853, Thomas Green Cyrus Heald and Benjamin Barrett were chosen a Committee, not only "to sell the Ministerial lot upon such terms and conditions as they may deem best," but it was also voted that they "be constituted trustees to hold and manage the Ministerial lot or the proceeds thereof in such manner as they may deem most conducive to the interest of the Parish." This committee apparently carried on as trustees for some years and it seems evident that the trusteeship of this money received from the sale of the Ministerial woodlot a bequest from Simon Blood Jr, came to include supervision also of the original Simon Blood Fund.

In 1860, on Nov. 17th "Mr. Ambrose Heald was chosen Trustee of the Simon Blood Fund in place of Cyrus Heald (one of above Committee) deceased." On Nov. 1, 1862, "William Green 2d was elected Trustee of the parish funds in place of Capt Thomas Green (another of original three) resigned."

Then with the reorganization of

the Society in 1867 The Trustees duties were defined as follows "The Trustees shall have charge of the funds belonging to the Society invest the same in such manner as may be for its best interest and appropriate the income according to the conditions upon which they have been bequeathed to the parish." "Benjamin Barrett William Green and Ambrose Heald (the same committee) were chosen Trustees of the Parish Funds, each to hold office five years or until others shall be chosen in their stead."

These men and their successors chosen as provided above took charge of the existing funds. However since for many years these funds consisted of money from the estate of Simon Blood and from the sale of the Ministerial wood lot bequeathed by the same man, the Trustees were during these years sometimes refered to as "Trustees of Parish Funds" and sometimes as "Trustees of the Blood Fund". As late as 1881 "Thomas A. Green was chosen to serve for five years as Trustee to the Blood Fund."

In the latter years of the 1800's several bequests to the Society were received and in each case provision for its immediate receipt and management was made by vote of the Society who chose an "agent" or "trustees" for that purpose. Therefore by 1905 there seems to have been in addition to the Trustees of Parish Funds several different Trustees in charge of recent bequests.

On March 8 1905 it was voted to elect a board of Trustees to care for all funds of the Society. N. W. Wilson was elected for three years, Charles Forbush for

two years and J. H. Wilkens for one year, with one member to be chosen each succeeding year for a term of three years.

Wedding Following Unity Guild Meeting - April 2, 1905.

In searching newspaper clippings for early information about Unity Guild, the following account of an interesting event following a Guild meeting was discovered.

"Married Sunday Evening, April 2d (1905) in the Unitarian Church, Miss Emma Taylor to Mr. Arthur T. Lapham, by Rev. W. E. Lane. After pronouncing the 'benediction' at the close of the Unity Guild meeting the audience was asked to remain for a short time. Few if any present knew what was to take place."

"The bridal party entered the church, the bride on the arm of her brother Charles S., and her sister Mary with the bridegroom. After the ceremony all went forward and extended congratulations."

"The bride looked very charming dressed in brown broadcloth, a white silk waist and a brown hat with blue forget-me-not trimmings. Her sister wore a blue silk waist and brown skirt."

"The sisters are granddaughters of Mrs. Maria Taylor, and Mr. Lapham is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs E.E. Lapham all of Carlisle."

"The young couple have gone to housekeeping in the village center."

Mr. and Mrs. Lapham whose 38th wedding anniversary is in April 1943 have been faithful in the interests of the First Parish Church all their married life and their five children are all members of the First Religious Society of Carlisle

Union Memorial Sunday Service - 1905.

The custom, observed until 1939 by the two churches in Carlisle of holding Memorial Sunday services together, first in one church and then in the other, was begun about forty years ago. The first account which I have found of a Union Memorial Sunday Service was on a newspaper clipping dated May 25, 1905.

"Next Sunday morning a union memorial service will be held in the Methodox Church, Rev. W. E. Lane preaching the memorial sermon."

Notice of the memorial day observance was also given and stated "Rev. W. E. Lane and Rev. N. V. Armes will each take a part."

By Laws Revised 1906.

At the Parish Meeting in March, 1905 Rev. Walter E. Lane, J. N. Wilkins and G. G. Wilkins were elected a Committee of three to draw up a code of by-laws to govern the Society. It will be remembered that the existing by-laws were last revised in 1867.

The By Laws as submitted by the above Committee on April 7th, 1906, were adopted as follows:

Article I.

The officers of this Society shall consist of a Clerk Treasurer and a Committee of three to be known as the Parish Committee All of them shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting to serve for one year and until their successors are elected, also one Trustee as provided in article 5, Secion 1, of these By laws.

(Note - On April 4, 1928, the following amendment to the above article was voted - "Voted to amend Art I of the by laws and elect the Parish Committee as follows - one for three years, one for two years and one for one year". The Parish Committee members are now chosen one each year for a three year term)

Article II

Clerk

The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting and under the directions of the Parish Committee shall serve all warrants for meetings of this society.

Article III

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive all money

belonging to the Society, and pay all bills when approved by the Parish Committee. At the Annual Meeting he shall furnish the Society with a full report in writing of the receipts and disbursements of the year.

Article IV

Parish Committee

The Parish Committee shall be the executive power of this Society. They shall make all contracts for supplying the pulpit, shall employ a suitable person for janitor, shall direct the purchase of general supplies for parish use, and approve all bills before payment is made. They shall also determine the price of Union Hall.

Article V

(added to By Laws on April 7, 1915)

Trustees.

The Trustees shall hold in trust all the funds, stocks and securities. They shall deposit, exchange, or transfer the same or any part thereof when required so to do by a two thirds vote of the Society. Said Trustees shall deposit in some reliable trust or bonding company or invest in such manner as the Society may direct all moneys they may receive and whenever directed by a two thirds' vote of the Society they shall withdraw as much of the amount so deposited or invested as may be expressed in the vote and pay the same immediately to the Treasurer, taking a receipt for the same. It is hereby made the duty of said Trustees as soon as practicable after the deposit or investment of any funds or the withdrawal of such deposits or investments of said

funds to render an account in writing in order that the transaction may appear on the records and they shall submit a detailed report of the financial condition of the Society at the annual meeting of the society.

Article VI

Committee on Finance.

The Committee on finance shall consist of one member. It shall be his duty to inspect and audit annually the accounts of the Treasurer and Trustees or other Committees charged with the receipts and expenditures of money of the Society, and report in writing at the annual meeting.

Article VII.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the first Wednesday in April.

Article VIII

Special Meetings

Special meetings shall be called when in the judgment of the Parish Committee the interests of the Society require and in all cases not less than seven days notice shall be given. All subjects to be acted upon shall be clearly set forth in the warrant.

Article IX.

Quorum.

Seven members shall constitute a quorum, but a less number may adjourn.

Article X.

Membership

Any person upon application may become a member of this Society if a majority of the members present and voting shall so determine. These

By laws shall be signed by every member.

Article XI

Amendments.

These By laws may be amended at any meeting of this society if two thirds of the members present shall so determine.

Resignation of Rev. Walter E. Lane - 1906

The resignation of the minister, Rev. Walter E. Lane was read at the Annual Parish Meeting on March 20, 1906, and was referred to an adjourned meeting April 7th when it was voted "to accept the Pastor's resignation" There seems to have been genuine regret among his parishioners at Mr. Lane's resignation.

Early in June, 1906 a reception given Rev. and Mrs. Lane at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Robbins was described in the newspaper as follows-

"The spacious house was filled to overflowing, including representative people from the other churches with their pastor and wife (Rev. and Mrs. A. Herbert Armes). The River Road band gave excellent music during the evening. In the dining room cake and lemonade were served to the guests."

"Mr. and Mrs. Lane have won

the respect and love of this people who exceedingly regret the breaking of ties which for four years hard bound them in a unity of interests."

"Miss Sarah F. Robbins presented him a purse of $25. 'with the love and esteem of the parish'"

Mr. and Mrs. Lane are now (1942) living in Spencer, Mass. where some of the people of Carlisle have visited them. When I wrote to Mr. Lane for verification of newspaper items and for other facts about his family, he replied in part -

"Edwards (his son) native place was Burlington, Vermont where we had our second home. He also was christened in the Carlisle church by the resident ministers."

"After some moving about we came here, expecting to stay only a short time, but have remained on this farm and maintained it as a home for our children to grow up in and come back to for more than thirty years."

"Elinor took degrees at Mount Holyoke and Radcliffe, taught in Baltimore, did laboratory work at Harvard Medical School, is now living in Toronto, Canada wife of a professor in the University there."

"Edward graduated at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, had a position in New York City 5 or 6 years, married Elinor's friend Virginia Newcomber of Mount Joy, Penn. He is in business there now, has a family of three daughters."

Rev. Frank N. Billington, Pastor. Fall 1906 - Spring 1911.

Rev. Frank N. Billington was the next minister of the First Religious Society. He and Mrs. Billington and their son Hawthorne, took up residence in the west half of Mr. Thomas A. Green's house and Mr. Billington began his duties in September, 1906.

Parish Supper - Note Paid - 1906

That the Ladies Social Circle and Unity Guild were active in the interests of the Society at this time is apparent from the following newspaper account of Dec. 26, 1906:

"A parish social and oyster supper at Union Hall Friday evening, was of more than ordinary interest to the members of the Unitarian Society. For several years there has been an outstanding debt including a note of $500. with accumulated interest of over $100. A little less than two years ago the ladies' sewing bee voted to work for a specific object, the cancelling of the debt."

"Under the management and direction of the president Mrs. Ernest C. Wilson, a woman of decided executive ability, and with the co-operation of her fellow-laborers a laudable success has been attained. At this meeting Capt. Wilson, holding the note in his hand announced its payment and applying the match it was burned to ashes which called forth hearty cheers. A special vote of thanks was extended Mrs. Wilson, also the Ladies

- Farah Nicole

Social Circle. Credit should be given Captain Wilson for the oyster supper, which was fully appreciated."

"The Carlisle Unity Guild works efficiently on different lines. New curtains for the Church have been hung the past week, a most desirable acquisition, and other improvements are in contemplation.

Installation Of Rev. Frank H. Billington — 1907.

In April, 1907, it was voted to install the pastor, Rev. Frank Herbert Billington, and arrangements for the Installation were left to a Committee of five — Rev. Frank H. Billington, J. Harry Wilkins, E. S. Pickers, Mrs. L. W. Robbins and Mrs. Hettie Wilson.

The Installation took place on Wednesday afternoon, April twenty-fourth, 1907, at two in the afternoon.

"The Council was called to order at 2 o'clock and organized by the election of Rev. Frederick Hill of Billington as Moderator and Rev. Harry Tutty of Billerica as Scribe. J. S. Anthony, Clerk of the Parish, made a report of the action of the Parish in calling the Rev. Frank Herbert Billington, his acceptance of the call and the vote of the Parish to install him as Pastor. It was voted to approve the proceedings of the Parish. Mr. Billington was then asked for a statement which he made.

"It was voted to proceed with the installation according to the order of services prepared by the Parish. Rev. Young B. MacDonald of Concord was chosen to

- Newspaper Clipping of April 27, 1907 -

extend the right hand of fellowship to the Pastor in behalf of the Churches.

The Council adjourned"

Order of Service

"Frank E. Wilkins played the organ prelude followed by an anthem sung by Mrs. Reynolds, soprano; Mrs. A. M. Robbins, alto; F. E. Robbins, tenor; J. E. Taylor, bass; Invocation, Rev. George F. Piper of Bedford a former pastor; Scripture reading, Rev. Howard A. MacDonald of East Lexington; Solo, 'The Lord is my Shepherd,' (Liddle) Miss Rose Fish; Sermon by Rev. Henry Hallam Saunderson of Cambridge Text taken from Psalms 90:17, 'The work of our hands establish thou it.' Prayer of Installation Rev. John M. Wilson of Lexington; Response 'The Lord's Prayer' by quartette; Charge to the Pastor, Rev. Harry Lutz, Billerica; Charge to the People, Rev. Frederick Hill, Arlington; Solo, 'Come Unto Me' (Hawley) Miss Rose Fish; Right hand of fellowship, Rev. Loren B. Macdonald of Concord; Hymn, 'Walk in the Light;' Benediction by Rev. Mr. Billington; Organ postlude, Mr. Wilkins"

"A recognized act of courtesy (outside the denomination) was the invitation to the Carlisle Congregational Church to be present with a delegate to sit in the Council. Mrs. M. A. Reynolds was so chosen."

"A collation was served in the Dining Hall at 4:30 P. M."

- Newspaper Clipping, Feb. 25, 1908 -

- Newspaper Clipping. August 6, 1911 -

Parish Records to Include Vital Statistics - 1907

It was voted on April 3, 1907,
"That the Clerk record all Births, Deaths,
Marriages and Christenings."

Anti-Saloon League Speakers - 1908 & 1911

In 1908 and again in 1911,
speakers from the Anti-Saloon League
addressed gatherings at the First Parish
Church.

"A good sized congregation was
present to listen to the splendid address
given in the Unitarian Church Sunday
night by the Rev. Dr. Frank W. Ingerick
of West Roxbury. After speaking of the
recent victories of the anti-saloon people
in the South, he compared the country
bar-room with the city saloon, greatly
to the advantage of the latter, and
closed with an appeal for all good citizens
to work for the elimination of both. A
collection that will aggregate $50. was
taken to aid the Anti-Saloon League."

In 1911, the following advance notice
of a meeting was given - "At the Unitarian
Church next Sunday morning, Mr. Everett
N. Lord, secretary of the men's department
of Boston University, will present the work
of the Massachusetts Anti-Saloon League.
He is one of the strongest speakers connect-
ed with the league and will be especially
interesting, as he will speak about the
bar and 'bottle' bill. In the evening he is to
give an address in the Congregational Church."

Annual Meeting of Parish - 1909.

On April 7th 1909 the Parish "voted not to let the Hall for dancing or amusement on Memorial Day or the evening before."

At the same Parish meeting, it was voted to increase the insurance on the church building

Church painted - New windows installed - 1910

On May 22, 1909, plans for painting the Church were discussed at a special Parish Meeting. It was "voted to paint the church building and that the Parish Committee borrow money to paint the building and have full power to do the work."

The next year on May 7th 1910, the question of painting which had evidently not been done was again discussed. It was voted that "the painting be done and that the Pastor and Parish Committee have full power to carry on the work as they think best." It was further "voted that all money received for painting purposes be placed in the hands of the treasurer and deposited as a painting fund."

Various donations toward the painting fund were received and the following year it was "voted to hold an Old time Tea Party, the proceeds to go toward paying for painting of the building."

In 1910, also new windows were placed in Union Hall, secured largely through the efforts of members of Unity Guild and others of the Parish who paid for a whole or half of a window.

Resignation of Rev. Frank N. Billington - 1911

At the Annual Meeting on April 8, 1911, "the resignation of the Pastor, Rev. Frank N. Billington, was read by the Clerk. The meeting voted unanimously not to accept it," but Mr. Billington's decision was apparently final. He left shortly after to become pastor of the Universalist Church in Abington Mass.

I have been able to find little further information about Rev. and Mrs. Billington, who, after they left Carlisle returned for occasional visits. Those in town who are known to have maintained contacts and correspondence with the Billingtons, have died (Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Anthony and Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Green), and a letter which I addressed to Mrs. Billington at the last address I which I knew brought no reply.

Rev. Frank N. Billington died in Gorham, Maine, on December 24, 1922 at the age of 48. He is buried in Green Cemetery, the third minister of the First Religious Society to be buried in Carlisle.

Electric Lights Installed In Church - 1911

The Edison Electric Illuminating Co. of Boston first installed street lights in Carlisle in 1911, and electricity became available for homes and public buildings in the center of the town, and on those streets where the poles and wires were extended.

The First Parish Church was wired for electricity that year, and was one of the first buildings ready for lighting when the electic current became available. This was in the Fall of 1911, and the first monthly bill for electricity, of $5.83, was paid on December 8th 1911.

- Parish Records -

Town Records. Book 4. Page 336

- Newspaper Clipping -

Rev. Granville Pierce Minister 1911-1914

On Nov. 25th, 1911, it was "voted to extend a call to Rev. Granville Pierce" to become pastor of the First Religious Society. At an adjourned meeting of the Parish on Dec. 9, 1911, the terms of Mr. Pierce's acceptance were reported by Capt. N. W. Wilson of the Parish Committee, and were approved by the Parish.

Rev. Granville Pierce was born in Townsend Mass. December 17, 1847, and was ordained in Berlin, Mass., on November 19, 1873.

One Hundredth Anniversary of Building Celebrated - 1911

At a special Parish Meeting on November 20, 1911, it was voted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the building of the church. The exercises celebrating the Centennial of this building which was "Dedicated to Almighty GOD on the second Sabbath in December, 1811," were held on December 20, 1911.

"At the morning service Fred E. Robbins gave an organ selection and the invocation was offered by Rev. Philip A. Jobe of the Congregational Church. Selections from the Scriptures were read by Rev. Mr. McDonald of Concord, Mass., and prayer was offered by Rev. E. C. Abbott of Boston, a former pastor.

"Rev. Granville Pierce who recently accepted a call to become pastor of the church, gave the historical address. Mention

was made of the pastorates of Rev. Mr. Litchfield, Rev. G. W. Stacy, Rev. J. T. Towers, Rev. J. L. Smith, Rev. Mr. Hervey, Rev. George Lyon, Rev. Mr. Billington and Rev. Walter Lane".

"Rev. Mr. Pierce read a number of extracts from the historical address delivered in the Church Feb. 23 1879, by Rev. James J. Twiss of Lowell."

"Dinner was served at noon, Rev. Mr. Pierce presiding and there was a reception to the visitors. This afternoon's exercises were opened with an organ selection by Fred E. Robbins, and it was followed with a solo by Miss Marion Bickford."

"Interesting addresses followed by Rev. Lewis Wilson, Secretary of the American Unitarian Association, and Rev. Mr. Brown of Littleton, Mass., field secretary of the Association."

"Letters were read from Rev. Charles F. Russell, Rev. Tillman Smith and Rev. Walter Lane, former pastors and from Mrs. Charlotte Page, a benefactor of the church who could not attend."

"'America' was sung by all and the benediction was given by Rev. Mr. Pierce"

"George G. Wilkins was chairman of the committee of arrangements and his assistants were Misses Edna F. Curries and Lillian Ricker, Mrs. Ernest Wilson, Mrs. Lucy M. Blaisdell, Capt. H. W. Wilson, Charles Forbush and James N. Wilkins."

- Newspaper Clipping

First Parish Minister at Dedication of Congregational Chapel - 1912.

When the people of the Congregational Church were raising funds for the addition of the Vestry or Chapel to their Church building all in town were interested in the project.

Sometimes Union Hall was hired for their entertainments and if the progam consisted of "home talent" members of the Congregational Church were frequently assisted by members of the First Religious Society. Members of both churches took part in such an entertainment in 1911. "The "Olde Folks' of Carlisle entertained their friends on Thursday evening in Union hall. An excellent supper of old time viands was served in the dining hall, which was followed by a concert. The singers wore varied and striking costumes of former days and gave a pleasing progiam of anthems and songs."

When the Congregational Church Chapel was completed it was formally dedicated on March 6, 1912. Members of the First Religious Society were invited to the Services of Dedication and the Scripture Reading at that time was by their pastor, Rev. Granville Pierce

Пенсіраки Шурану

Rev. and Mrs Pierce's New Home - 1913.

When they first came to Carlisle, Rev. and Mrs. Pierce lived in the house occupied by Mr. Pierce's two predecessors, Rev. Mr. Lane and Rev. Mr. Billington - in half of Mr. Thomas A. Green's house. Later, when its construction was completed, they moved to what is now the home of Mrs. Nettie O. Wilson on School Street. Rev. and Mrs. Pierce moved into their new home, the property of Capt. N. W. Wilson, in January, 1913.

On Lincoln's birthday, they were given a house warming by their parishioners and other friends. "A very large number gathered during the evening and all spent a pleasant time. The younger set enjoyed games, while the older people were busily engaged in looking over the house with all its modern and up-to-date fixtures, declaring it a city dwelling. The house in keeping with the spirit of the day, Lincoln's birthday anniversary, was decorated with the national colors and carnations. During the evening fruit punch, sandwiches, cake and coffee were served. Those in charge were Mrs. D. W. Robbins, Mrs. Gilman Taylor, Mrs. George Dunn, Mrs. E. S. Ricker and Miss Alfreda Teabo. Mr. Frank J. Biggi, Mr. E. Powell Teabo and Mr. Fred E. Robbins served as waiters. Mystery bundles were left by all present. It was a late hour when the party broke up leaving behind them their best wishes for Rev. and Mrs. Pierce"

- Tausch Records -

- Text of Silk Flag to Sunday School - 1913.

In 1913, the Sunday School, then numbering between 30 and 40, under the leadership of Miss Lillian W. Pickes, Superintendent, received the gift of a silk American flag.

On June 22, 1913 "At the close of the morning service, the congregation was invited to remain to the opening service of the Sunday School. Mrs. Hallie Robbins Whitney of Lowell presented to the School a silk flag in memory of her father and mother (Mr. and Mrs. John D. Robbins) who are buried in Glen Cemetery. Mrs. Whitney was escorted by her uncle O. W. Robbins a veteran of the Civil War. She was accompanied by Gen. Loud of N. Y., Mrs. Ball, assistant editor of the National Tribune, and Mr. J. B. Lewis of Boston and Reading, who all made remarks. Rev. Granville Pierce accepted the flag for the Sunday School." After the flag was accepted, the audience rose and saluted it and then joined in singing the Star Spangled Banner.

A few years ago, this flag presented in 1913 became too worn for further use. At that time, Mrs. Whitney's cousin, Fred E. Robbins, and Mrs. Robbins, gave to the Sunday School another American flag to replace the first one. The flag given by Mr. and Mrs. Robbins stands now near the north east window at the front of the church.

Pipe Organ installed in Church 1913.

In the summer of 1913, largely through the efforts of Fred E. Robbins, president of Unity Guild, and the other Guild members, a pipe organ was installed in the church. Mr. Robbins learned previously that Mr. Andrew Carnegie had established a fund with which to assist churches of limited means to acquire a pipe organ. It was stipulated that the churches must be free of debt at the time of application, must raise half the purchase price of the organ themselves, and must do this within one year. Mr. Robbins contacted Mr. Carnegie's Secretary, and completed the necessary arrangements.

There were many activities conducted for raising the money for the organ. Some of it was given at a large Birthday Party. Little silk bags were prepared, each containing a printed card explaining its purpose, and were distributed to interested friends well in advance of the party. Each was to place in the bag the number of cents which represented his age, and bring the bag to the party. Judged by the contents of the bags, the years represented by those present totaled a surprising number. Other parties, and several food sales were held, and within the specified year, Unity Guild had raised $650., its share of the purchase price of the pipe organ.

At a special Parish Meeting on July 7, 1913 it was "Voted that the Parish accept the gift of a new organ, and grant permission to make necessary alterations to install it." At the same time

- Parish Records -

- Newspaper Clipping -

it was "Voted to donate the old organ to Unity Guild." This organ purchased in 1868 for the First Parish Church and used there for 45 years, is now in Wilson Memorial Chapel in Green Cemetery.

The new organ was installed during July and formally presented to the Church September 7, 1913. "At the close of the morning service Fred E. Robbins president of Unity Guild presented to the Church for the Guild the beautiful Estey pipe organ installed in the Church during the summer. It was accepted for the Church by James N. Wilkins, Chairman of the Parish Committee. Rev. Harold Pierce made short remarks which closed the brief ceremony."

The new organ was dedicated early in September. "On Wednesday evening at the First Parish Church Unitarian, an organ recital was given on the new organ recently purchased and given to the church by Unity Guild. - - - The organ was purchased from the Estey Organ Co. of Brattleboro, Vt, and is of hard oak finish, has 385 pipes and speaking Tubes. The interior woodwork is of cherry wood, having all the latest mechanical improvements."

"The recital was given at 8 o'clock and brought out a very large and appreciative audience. Mr. Claude Eugene Saunier of the Estey Organ Co., Boston, was the organist of the evening and gave great delight to his listeners with his skillful playing. He was assisted by Mr. Arthur F. Tucker of the Meeting House Hill Church, Dorchester tenor soloist. Mr. Tucker sang several songs and was very pleasing to the audience. Many encores were given

by both artists.

"The church was very prettily decorated with cut flowers."

"Among those noticed in the congregation from out of town were Dr. and Mrs. Edward E. Hamblin of Bedford, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Raymond and an automobile party of friends from Concord, Miss Marion H. Wilkins of Billerica, Miss Cleora Nickles of Somerville, Mr. Alfred V. Heald of Boston."

"A bountiful supper was served in the banquet hall previous to the recital, to a large number."

Womans Branch Alliance Formed - 1914.

In 1914, members of the Ladies Social Circle of the First Religious Society voted to organize as a Branch of the National Unitarian Womens Organization, the Woman's Alliance.

Eight women met on Feb. 4, 1914 at the home of Mrs. Granville Pierce and voted for the change. Mrs. Prescott Keyes of Concord was present to tell about the work of the Alliance, and the advantages of belonging to the National organization.

The first officers of the Carlisle Womans Branch Alliance, organized Feb. 4, 1914 were President, Mrs. Granville Pierce; Secretary, Miss Lillian W. Pickes; Treasurer, Mrs. James N. Wilkins. In 1918 it was voted to add a vice president to the officers, and Mrs. Nellie O. Wilson was chosen first vice president of the Alliance.

Resignation of Rev. Granville Pierce - 1914.

Rev. Granville Pierce resigned in 1914, to take effect the first of September. An item in the Lowell papers on June 7th said: "Rev. Granville Pierce, pastor of the Unitarian church, has resigned after a pastorate of nearly three years. During that period his manly Christian character has won for him many friends, both in the church and in the community, who will be sorry to have him leave".

Very little information has been available about Mr. Pierce after he left Carlisle, until his death in Green Harbor, Mass on March 6, 1927.

A letter of inquiry, which I addressed to Green Harbor, where I learned he died, was answered by his widow, Clara G. Pierce. Mrs. Pierce wrote me that other parishes which Mr. Pierce served, although perhaps not in the order given (most of these were before Carlisle) were Chelmsford, Ashby, Holyoke, Medfield and Warwick, Mass. and in Green Harbor, from July 1917 to April 1920, and again from October 1921 to October 1925.

Mr. Pierce's first wife, Georgianna Pierce, died in Warwick in June, 1922, and on January 15, 1924 he married Clara G. Thomas, a widow of Marshfield.

Mrs. Pierce sent me two pictures of Mr. Pierce, from which to choose and retain one for our history. I kept the snapshot taken at the time of Mr. Pierce's pastorate in Green Harbor which looked most nearly as I remembered him, and it will be found in these books with the pictures of the ministers of the First Parish Church.

- Marsh Records -

Rev. Elwin J. Prescott Pastor 1915-1918

Several candidates were heard during the fall of 1914, and at a special Parish Meeting on January 9, 1915 a choice was made. The Parish Committee reported that Rev. Elwin J. Prescott of Hampton Falls N. H. "would come to us on condition that he give us a part of his time until next fall when he would be in a position to give us all of his time if everything were satisfactory." The Parish Committee were instructed to engage Mr. Prescott "on such conditions as they deem best," and it was voted to give a reception to Rev. and Mrs. Prescott.

Rev. Elwin J. Prescott was born in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, where he acquired his early education in the public schools and under private tutors. Mr. Prescott entered the florist business with his father and remained with him until he was 19 when he made application for admission to the Meadeville Theological School at Meadeville, Pa. While there he also took courses at Allegheny College and was graduated at the age of 24. At that time he entered Harvard University where he remained for one year, and returned to the University a few years later for special work.

Among Mr. Prescotts pastorates before coming to Carlisle were the historic old First Parish of Kennebunk, Maine, the First Church of Salem, and the First Church of Gloucester, Mass. In 1911, Rev. and Mrs. Prescott went to Sanford, Maine, and collected and organized an active Unitarian church. This work was done entirely without aid from any outside source. Previous to coming to Carlisle, Mr. Prescott resigned

- Telegraph - Jan. 26, 1915

from The First Church of Boston, and returned to his farm where he produced for The war effort. During The time he preached in Carlisle, Mr. Prescott supervised and carried on The work at Hampton Falls, making The trip each Sunday except during The winter months, when he and Mrs. Prescott lived in Carlisle.

Reception To Rev. and Mrs. Elwin J. Prescott - 1918

"An informal reception was tendered Rev. and Mrs. Elwin J. Prescott in The First Parish Church, Unitarian, on Saturday evening last. One corner of The hall was festooned with crepe paper, making a canopy under which The party received. Rev. and Mrs. Prescott were assisted in receiving by Mr. and Mrs. J. Harry Wilkins. The ushers were Miss Ida H. Otterson, Miss Ethlyn Wilson, Miss Elsie Blaisdell and Miss Jeanette Gerow. The reception committee: Mrs. Fred E. Robbins, Chairman, Mr. J. Harry Wilkins, Miss Lillian W. Picker, Mrs. Edward S. Picker and Miss M. Alfeda Teabo."

"During The evening a luncheon was served. Miss Lillian W. Picker and Miss Ruth E. Martin poured. Others who served were Mrs. Edward S. Picker, Miss M. Alfeda Teabo and The Misses Otterson, Wilson, Blaisdell and Gerow."

"Piano and violin selections were given by Rev. E. J. Prescott and Miss Mary G. Currier."

Mr. Prescott was an accomplished violinist and gave much pleasure with his violin during his pastorate here.

"Newspapers - Aug 30, 1915"

Parish Entertained by Rev. and Mrs. Prescott - 1915.

Late in August of 1915. Rev. and Mrs. Prescott entertained members and friends of the Parish at their home in Hampton Falls.

"On Friday last, 62 members and friends of the First Parish Unitarian Church enjoyed an automobile trip to the home of their minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Elvin J. Prescott, at Hampton Falls, N. H. The day was an ideal one and the party left Carlisle in eight private automobiles and a large truck, all gaily bedecked with red and white paper plumes the gift of Mrs. George E. Jones and Three Daughters of Concord. The start was made at 7.45 a. m. and leaving Carlisle Centre the merry party journeyed through North Billerica, Tewksbury, Ballardvale to Andover, North Andover to Haverhill, where a half hour stop was made. Leaving here the party passed through Bradford, Merrimac and Amesbury, where they were met by Rev. Mr. Prescott who piloted them on to his home on the beautiful hills at Hampton Falls, reaching there at 11 a. m."

"Here a very hearty welcome awaited them by Rev. and Mrs. Prescott and family, a large gathering of relatives and neighbors and friends making the number in the party run near to the 100 mark. The beautiful home was thrown open to all, and walks about the farm and grounds were enjoyed until 12.30 when dinner was served on the lawn, basket style. Rev. and Mrs. Prescott served delicious clam chowder, coffee and fruit. Tables had been laid for all, and were very prettily decorated with flowers from the garden of the hostess."

- Newspapers -

"Following the dinner speaking and reading were enjoyed." A detailed account of the afternoon entertainment follows. It was Mr. Prescotts birthday, and he was presented a fountain pen on behalf of the men of the church by James N. Wilkins. Many other birthday gifts were received among which was a birthday cake frosted with candied pansies, Mr. Prescotts favorite flower. There were friends present from Acton, Concord, Clinton, Chelmsford, Boston, Lynn, Dunstable and Kensington, N. H.

Work Day at Church - 1915

In October, 1915 a clean-up and work day was held at the church by men of the Parish, and a "good sized gathering of men with teams did a fine days work. At 12:30 an excellent dinner was served for all and a general social time was enjoyed. A new road was built from the main road to the church building, while other needed attention was given elsewhere, inside the building as well as outside."

- Newspapers -

- Parish Records -

- Parish Records -

Serlina G. Richardson Bequest Accepted - Annual Parish Meeting - 1916.

Sometimes the Annual Parish Meeting has been preceded by a Parish supper, and this was the case in 1916. "At 6.30 an excellent supper was served in the banquet hall to a large number, the supper being in charge of Mrs. D. W. Robbins who was ably assisted by the ladies of the parish."

At the business meeting which followed the supper it was voted to accept the gift of $1000. bequeathed the Society by the late Serlina G. Richardson of Chelmsford as follows: "Item 2. I give to the First Religious Society (Unitarian) at Carlisle the sum of One Thousand Dollars in trust, the income only of said sum to be expended annually for the support of liberal preaching."

Change In Time Of Service - 1917.

In April, 1917, it was "voted to hold the preaching services in the afternoon until July 1, 1917", and in January, 1918, it was voted to discontinue services until April 1st of that year. At that time services were resumed, and a vote of confidence in favor of retaining the ministry was taken.

End Of Rev. Elvin J. Prescott's pastorate - 1918

Rev. Elvin J. Prescott's pastorate in Carlisle ended in June, 1918 and both he and Mrs. Prescott are pleasantly remembered for their friendly contributions to the interests of the community.

Mr. Prescott is now retired and he and Mrs. Prescott live on his ancestral estate in Hampton Falls New Hampshire, where he devotes himself to the creation of new varieties of delphiniums and pansies. Mrs. Prescod has acquired national fame as a creator of artistic hooked rugs. Her rugs have been pronounced by the critics in New York City as among the finest in workmanship, design and color that have been exhibited there. Mrs. Prescott also lectures on the following and other subjects connected with early New England life - "Hooked Rugs and the Art of Making Them," "The Women of Early New England," "Our New England Heritage" and "Some True Stories of Some Early New England People".

1918-1919

Ministers who Supplied Pulpit Following Mr. Prescott

For a year following Mr. Prescott's departure in June, 1918, the pulpit was supplied by different ministers. Rev. William Walsh of Billerica preached longer than the others and was here for the first four months of 1919. Mr. Walsh was the minister at the First Parish Church in Billerica at the time and conducted the services here in the afternoon. At the Annual Parish meeting in April, 1919, it was "voted to have the services in the morning commencing the first Sunday in May."

Other supplies during the year were Rev. A. J. Kennedy, Rev. C. A. Henderson, Rev. H. Loring and Rev. John D. Reid.

Rev. Joseph Henry Crooker, D. D. Pastor 1919-1921.

At the Annual Parish Meeting April 2, 1919 it was "voted that the Parish Committee ask for candidates to preach with the object in view to secure a permanent minister". In September, 1919, Rev. Joseph Henry Crooker D. D. was engaged as a regular preacher although he and Mrs. Crooker retained their residence in Lexington, where they were then living.

The Parish voted on April 7, 1920, "to give a reception to Dr. and Mrs. Crooker," and the Committee on arrangements were Mrs. Nellie C. Wilson, Mrs. William Foss Jr. and Mrs. and Mrs. George E. Wilkins

Dr. Crooker preached in Carlisle from September, 1919 until the middle of September 1921, with the exception of four months in the winter of 1920 and 1921,

which he and Mrs. Crooker spent in Baltimore. During those months the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Harvey Merrill & Rev. C. J. Kennedy and Rev. Paul N. Drake. Dr. Crooker returned for Palm Sunday.

Dr. Crooker is remembered in Carlisle as a scholarly and kindly gentleman, but there were no recorded facts about him here. It was known that he was an author and that Mrs. Crooker, too, was a minister. Both Dr. and Mrs Crooker left such an impression of Christian dignity and charm that it seemed inevitable that there must have been interesting lives, something of which it would be desirable to record here. A letter of inquiry addressed to the American Unitarian Association in Boston, brought a very helpful reply from Mrs. E. F. Stoneham, "Historical Librarian." Mrs. Stoneham sent to me the following information about Dr. Crooker taken from an article by Samuel A. Eliot in the Christian Register -

"Rev. Joseph Henry Crooker, D.D. was born in Foxcroft, Maine, on 1850, December 8, and died in Kansas City, May 29, 1932. He was ordained in the ministry of the Baptist Church in 1873 after graduating from the Ypsilanti Union Seminary, but five years later entered the Unitarian Fellowship and became minister of the Unitarian Church at La Porte, Ind. His most rewarding pastorates were at Madison, Wis., 1881-91 and at Ann Arbor, Mich., 1898-1905. These were churches at great university centres and Dr. Crooker proved himself an intellectual and moral leader of far-reaching influence. Between these pastorates he was the first minister of the Unitarian Church in Helena, Mont. There he was easily the outstanding minister of the State; Chaplain of the State Senate and

active in educational and philanthropic work. He secured the passage of the statute creating a state board of charities of which he was the first president."

"After leaving Ann Arbor, he served acceptably at Roslindale, Mass., 1905-12, - Redlands, Calif. 1912-14 (Europe 1914) Rochester, Christ Church 1914-15- Amherst, Mass. 1917-18 - Long Beach, Calif. 1918-1919- Carlisle, Mass. 1920 (note- this should be 1919)-1921 - - - - - and was widely known as a preacher and lecturer. After his retirement he lived in Elgin, Ill., and of late years in Kansas City, at the home of his son, Rev. Orin Crooker. He was twice married, his second wife being the Rev. Florence Pollock Crooker, a well-known Universalist minister."

"Dr. Crooker was the author of many books and a constant contributor to the Christian Register the Christian Leader, the Hibbert Journal and other periodicals. Among his best known books may be mentioned 'Problems in American Society' 'The New Bible and Its Uses,' 'Religious Freedom in American Education,' 'The Church of Today.' This last book was published simultaneously by the Unitarians, Congregationalists and Universalists in 1908 and was followed in 1911 by 'The Church of Tomorrow.'"

"Dr. Crooker served for seven years as President of the Unitarian temperance society and his books and pamphlets in advocacy of temperance had a wide circulation. In 1903 he had the distinction of being the preacher at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in London, and he preached for some time in English Unitarian churches. He took part also in the International Congress

at Amsterdam."

Shortly after Mrs Crooker's death in 1925, the following information about her appeared in a local papers on May 3rd.

"Friends in this town received word recently of the death of Rev. Florence Pollock Crooker in Elgin, Ill. She had been in declining health for several years. Mrs. Crooker was born in Waukesha, Wis. on Jan. 19, 1848. Mrs. Crooker was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the Theological School at St. Lawrence University. She was ordained at Waverly, Ia. in 1876. In 1878 she gave up her work in Waverly and took up similar work in Blue Island, Ill. While there she started missionary work in Englewood, Chicago, which grew rapidly in proportions. She finally gave her entire time to that branch of religious work until 1892, when she retired and went abroad to study at Oxford and Cambridge. She later accepted a call to a Pasadena, Calif. church, where she served in the pulpit for three years. She then came to Boston and became associate pastor of the Every Day International Church. This work she continued until the time of her marriage to Rev. Joseph Henry Crooker in June, 1896.

"For the next several years Dr. and Mrs. Crooker spent time in several pastorates and some of that time was spent abroad. Early in the World War they returned to this country and (later) accepted a call to the First Parish Unitarian Church in this town. For several years they proved a wonderful inspiration in this locality and it was not until three years ago that they moved to Elgin, Ill., where the remainder of Rev. Mrs. Crooker's life was spent. Funeral services were held at her home in Elgin and burial took place in Madison, Wis."

- Photographer Closing -

The Old Peabody Pew Given in Church - 1921.

In February, 1921, the Woman's Branch Alliance presented "The Old Peabody Pew" by Kate Douglas Wiggin; in the church. A short organ recital preceding the play was given by Fred E. Robbins, and an added feature of the entertainment was the lovely old-fashioned costumes. Those taking part were Mrs. Nettie T. Wilson, Mrs. Rena A. Clark, Miss Ethlyn Wilson, Mrs. J. L. Ellerson, Mrs. Edward E. Lapham, Mrs. Fred E. Robbins, Mrs. C. E. Crossland, Miss Helen Blessington, Miss Florence Brooks and Mrs. James S. Anthony.

"Following the play, an excellent supper was served in the dining room. --- A social time with dancing was enjoyed in the hall and brought a pleasant evening to an end. --- Miss Maria A. Clark had charge of the candy table. Miss Lillian M. Tucker had full charge of the supper and was ably assisted by Mrs. Sara F. Tucker, Mrs. Jennie M. Foss, Mrs. Florence N. Anthony, Mrs. Emma Lapham and Mrs. Alice L. Wilkins. The dining room was attractively decorated with valentine hearts. Miss Charlotte Robbins played for the dancing."

Proceeds from this evenings entertainment and the money which was in the Ladies Circle treasury when the Alliance was formed together with an amount appropriated from the Parish treasury, were used for repairs on the interior of the church authorized at the Annual Parish meeting in 1921. George G. Wilkins, George E. Wilkins and Benjamin F. Blaisdell were the Committee appointed to take charge of the work.

Electric Blower for Pipe Organ - 1921.

Members of Unity Guild assumed all expenses connected with the organ for several years after its purchase in 1913. They immediately insured the new organ, and during the years when a hand blower was used, Unity Guild paid the salary of the one who pumped the blower.

Later Unity Guild members voted to install an electric blower. George E. Wilkins, James N. Wilkins and Fred E. Robbins were the Committee chosen to take charge of the matter, and the contract for the new blower was at length awarded to George W. Goodwin of Lowell. The electric blower was installed and first used in April, 1921. The following items of expense connected with the blower were paid for by Unity Guild:

Express on Organ Blower	3.15
W. S. Barrett	
Express on blower pipes	1.00
Ernest Reyes	
Electric motor bill	34.37
C. E. Crossland	
23 hrs. labor on blower	11.00
Wilson Lumber Co.	14.22
Wm. B. Goodwin	
In full to date - for Organ blower & repairs etc on organ	200.00

First Envelope System of Parish Finance Adopted - 1922.

On May 3, 1922 it was voted "to adopt the card system in place of the former subscription papers" the soliciting committee to have charge of the matter, and the new system "to be in effect from May 1st, 1922". At another Parish Meeting on May 17th, it was decided to have the new card system go into effect June 1st instead of May 1st.

This so-called "card system" was the familiar one of pledge cards and envelopes, and was used for a time. It was later discontinued until its use was again voted by the Society in 1941.

Pulpit Supplies Following Dr. Crooker. 1921-1922.

From the time Dr. Crooker left in the middle of September 1921, until October 1922, a number of supplies preached at the First Parish Church. Rev. Mr. Hooper, Rev. Mr. Sanford, Rev. A. J. Kennedy, Rev. Mr. Worrill, Rev. F. K. Clifford, Rev. Edwd Houghton, Rev. Ernest Smith, Rev. John N. Wilson, Rev. John D. Peil and Rev. A. J. Coleman, preached from one to four Sundays each. Rev. L. A. Owen preached for four months, from April through July, 1922.

-enclosure-

Rev. Alfred L. T. Shurtleff, Pastor. 1922-1930.

In October, 1922, Rev. Alfred L. T. Shurtleff of Framingham began his pastorate here. During the eight years he was minister of the First Religious Society, he lived in Framingham Centre, coming to Carlisle each Sunday and at other times as well.

Mr. Shurtleff was born in Brookline, Mass. on September 5, 1873 the youngest child of Asahel M. and Sarah A. Shurtleff. He was educated at the Boston Public Schools, at Meadville Theological School, and at Andover Theological Seminary. He began his active ministry as an assistant at Bulfinch Place Church in Boston. From there he went to Chelmsford and later to East Boston and to Marblehead before coming to Carlisle.

On November 14, 1910, Mr. Shurtleff married Elizabeth Lewis Richards of Providence, Rhode Island, the youngest child of Rev. C. A. L. and Mrs. Richards. Mr. and Mrs. Shurtleff have two daughters - Elizabeth Leigh, now Mrs. Herman Heerz - and Ethel Huntington, now Mrs. Edward Hildebrandt.

Repairs at Church. 1922 and 1924.

During the winter of 1922 and 1923, repairs were made to the furnace and to the pew cushions in the church. Both of these projects were undertaken by the Alliance to whom a vote of thanks was extended at the Annual Parish Meeting in April, 1923.

Repairs to the belfry of the church became necessary early in 1924 as the result of a terrific gale in January which blew down the railing around the belfry.

Rent of Town Hall - 1924

At the Annual Parish Meeting on April 9, 1924 it was voted to raise the rent of Union Hall to the Town to $250. per year, and "to charge $15. for use of Hall to outside parties."

Alliance Room Decorated and Furnished - 1924

At the Annual Parish Meeting in April 1924 it was voted that "the Parish allow the Alliance to redecorate the squad room (the one formerly used for Cavalry equipment) and to be used only for church purposes."

This work was immediately undertaken by the Ladies, and the room was made attractive with fresh paint, paper, draperies and new furniture. It was frequently used for Alliance meetings for a number of years.

At present (1943), the room is used for the most part as a Sunday School room.

First Layman's Service - Layman's League Formed - 1924

"Sunday morning, December 14, 1924 a group of men conducted a Layman's Service at the First Parish Unitarian Church. This was the first service of its kind to be held here. A large congregation was present. Those taking part in this service were William Foss Jr., William T. Robbins, James N. Wilkins and Eugene P. Teabo. At the close of this service the men met the minister, Rev. Alfred D. K. Shuttleff, and formed a Chapter of the Unitarian Layman's League."

"The following were the charter members:

- Vierunddreißig -

James H. Wilkens, Fred E. Robbins, William F. Robbins, George E. Wilkens, William Foss, Jr., Donald Lapham, Arnold T. Lapham, Guy H. Clark, James A. Anthony, James P. Wilkens and Eugene N. Teabo. James H. Wilkens was elected the chapter president, - - - and Fred E. Robbins, Secretary."

Since this first Laymans Sunday Service, one has been conducted every year by the League members, the sermon always delivered, and sometimes written, by one of their number.

Laymans League Supper and Circus - 1925.

One of the first social events planned and carried out by the new Laymans League was a Supper and entertainment in March, 1925. This was one of the most spectacular and entertaining performances witnessed here within the last twenty years.

After the supper from 6:30 to 8 "Swindling Brothers" Spectacular Side Show and Mammoth Concert" was presented in Union Hall. Tickets for this performance were sold by George E. Wilkens and Edmund L. Finch from an elevated and gaily decorated stand near the outer door.

The interior of the hall represented a real circus side show. The walls were covered with canvas and an elevated stage ran about the hall, on which were the various performers and numerous curios. The floor was covered with several inches of sawdust, which lent a real circus atmosphere to the occasion.

Those taking part were as follows: Siamese twins, Donald and Arnold Lapham; Snake charmer, Frank J. Biggi; lariat

man in the world, Waldo D. Wilson; bearded lady, James S. Anthony; midget, E. Joseph Clark; the doll Fred F. Pickles; strong man William Foss jr. Bozo wild man, James F. Wilkens; Bonko, Wallace N. Snow; clowns William F. Robbins Daniel L. Chamberlin; Kenneth Duren, Herbert E. Snow, Guy W. Clark and Fred E. Robbins; Arab fortune teller, Edmund L. French; police officer, Eugene R. Teabo; ring master, Gurney Lilyegren.

Pink lemonade and peanuts were dispensed from an especially erected stand and did a rushing business throughout the evening.

After the side show program the following concert was given: Songs Aaron Noyes of West Somerville; quartet numbers, Mrs. William F. Robbins soprano, Mrs. Frank J. Biggi, contralto, Aaron Noyes tenor, William F. Robbins, bass; readings and specialty dances, Tubbs sisters of Boston. Mrs. William F Robbins was the accompanist.

The supper committee consisted of Fred E. Robbins, chairman; James N. Wilkens, James W. Houlton, William Foss, Jr. Fred F. Pickles, Wallace N. Snow and Waldo D. Wilson. The committee on the show and entertainment included Gurney Lilyegren, chairman. William F. Robbins and Eugene R. Teabo.

Union Hallowe'en Party - 1925.

The Young People's Societies of the Congregational Church and the First Religious Society held a joint Hallowe'en party in 1925.

"The Hallowe'en party held in Union Hall on Friday evening drew out a record attendance. The interior of the hall was attractively decorated with yellow and black crepe paper, Hallowe'en suggestions being prominent everywhere together with autumn leaves and pine boughs. As each person entered the hall they were obliged to step through a large book. Those not in costume were duly fined. A parade opened the program of the evening. Among the large numbers who came in costume there were varied make-ups. Games of all kinds were Enjoyed with the usual doughnut race and bobbing for apples. Fortune tellers did a thriving business during the evening and of these Madame Ouellette was the leader. She was kept busy every minute. Her booth was unique and occupied a prominent place in the hall."

"At 9.40 all adjourned to the dining hall where ice cream and cake were served. The party was held by members of Unity Guild together with the Christian Endeavor Society of the Congregational Church. The committee on arrangements consisted of Jessie Crossland, Esther E. Wilkins, Martha Foss Winfield N. Pickes, Everett Lapham and Donald Lapham of Unity Guild. Mildred Wilkie, Lucy Lurvey, Gordon Mc Allister of the Christian Endeavor Society. The matrons were Mrs. Fred E. Robbins Mrs. James H. Wilkins Mrs. Edward C. Pickes Mrs. William Foss Jr., Mrs. Robert W. Mc Allister and Miss Pamela Ouellette."

At this time Fred E. Robbins was in

charge of Unity Guild, and he and Mrs. Robbins, assisted by some of the parents planned and sponsored frequent parties and invitation dances for Unity Guild members.

Water System Installed at Church. 1925 - 1926.

In 1925, the women of the Alliance instituted proceedings for installing a water system in the kitchen at the Church. At this time pipes were laid connecting the sink in the kitchen with the well on the land back of the church, permission to do this having been given by the owner of the land. An electric pump was also installed in the building.

The Laymans League assumed responsibility for digging and filling the trench for cementing around the well and most of the work was done by League members. Several "work days" were held that fall, and a hot dinner was served the workers by women of the Alliance.

At a special Parish Meeting held Nov. 30, 1925 it was "Voted that the Parish raise and appropriate the sum of $300. to install a water system. Committee Chosen to have charge of the work Mrs. Jennie M. Foss, Chairman, and James N. Wilkins"

At the Annual Parish Meeting, April 6, 1927, "The Committee on installing the water system reported it was furnished at a cost of $150."

Memorial Candle Given and Dedicated 1925.

It was Rev. Alfred L. K. Shurtleff who established the Memorial Candle at the First Parish Church at Christmas time 1925. He purchased and gave to the First Religious Society a bronze colored tablet bearing in gold on a brown background the words "In Memoriam." This hangs on the wall at the front of the church between the pulpit and the southeast window. Attached to the wall beside it is a brass candle holder containing a white candle.

When I wrote asking Mr. Shurtleff to give me some particulars about the Candle for this account he replied - "I established the Memorial Candle at Christmas time -- it was at the close of a year when we had had many deaths in our parish - deaths which we had all felt deeply. As the holidays came near I felt a sense of depression among our people. We all rather dreaded 'merry-making.' I then thought of the Candle as something which would help us over the Christmas time and as something also which would tend to bind us all together more closely as a parish. We had a special Christmas service of dedication at which I preached on the text "The Spirit of Man is the Candle of the Lord." "

Mr. Shurtleff further said "I developed the idea of the Memorial Candle from my Christmas Candle the account of which you will find in my book 'Lighted Candles.' "

It was Mr. Shurtleff who inaugurated the custom of candle lighting at Christmas time on Beacon Hill in Boston. In the account to which he refers above he says "Through the years of my early boyhood I shared

a room with my brother. I was happy with him, but I longed for a room of my own, wherein I could have complete independence, and quiet times for thought and study. Late in the autumn of 1893, this longing was satisfied. My parents gave me a little hall-bedroom, entirely for myself. How I rejoiced in this gift! The room was on the fourth floor of our home at number 9 West Cedar Street in Boston. It was very small. It had but a single window, high above the front door, just under the eaves - which faced upon our quiet, neighborly street of home-loving people.

"Christmas drew near. As I anticipated its coming, I thought of the Christ Child, whose birthday would be kept again, what could I do as a special remembrance of him this year? How show my gratitude for the wonderful gift of his life? Yes, and how also express the gladness which was mine in having a room of my very own? I wanted in some way to dedicate this room. It was my bedroom - but it was also my first study. And I was just beginning to think seriously of the ministry as my life work. How should my room be dedicated, therefore, at this first Christmas-time of my possessing it? I decided that I would place a single lighted candle in my window on Christmas Eve, as a welcome to the Christ Child - that he might come into my room that night and abide with me always thereafter. His presence should be both a dedication and a consecration of my room, making of it an 'upper chamber.'

"And so it was that I lighted my

candle of welcome and remembrance on Christmas Eve 1893. Its tiny gleam shone out on the darkened street. Little did I realize that night how far it was to shine and how greatly it would be multiplied. It was this little candle's gleam which began the Christmas lighting of all of Beacon Hill through the years which have followed. The lighting grew slowly at first but each year it has increased until now there are but few unlighted homes as the Christmas season returns to the old West End of Boston."

So as Mr. Shurtleff gave to Beacon Hill its heart warming ceremony of candle lighting on Christmas eve he has also given to the old First Parish Church of Carlisle a ceremony of remembrance. The Memorial Candle which Mr. Shurtleff gave to this Church and dedicated at Christmas time, 1925, has been in use ever since in observance of the custom which he instituted at that time. On the Sunday nearest the anniversary of the death of a member of the First Religious Society, during the morning service the Ministers announces for whom the candle burns, lights the Memorial Candle from one of the pulpit candles, and reads a brief selection or offers prayer while the organ is softly played. Flowers are in place on the table beneath the candle, often given by relatives of the one whose memory is honored.

Bequest From Estate of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Heald 1926.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Heald, for many years a dentist in Lowell, was a native of Carlisle whose early religious connections were with the First Parish Church. Dr. Heald died in Lowell on February 19, 1926, at the age of 80. In his will he bequeathed to the First Religious Society of Carlisle the sum of $1000 the income to be used for the payment of ministerial services for that Society.

Sheds Removed - 1926.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, April 7, 1926, it was voted that "the Parish Committee remove all the horse sheds excepting two". Those two were retained for storage purposes and the others, which had outlived their usefulness as a shelter for horses, were removed.

Laymans League Club Rooms 1926.

At the November meeting of the Laymans League in 1926, "the Committee chosen at a recent meeting to find a suitable place for a clubroom for the young boys of the town, as well as for the League members, reported that the rooms above the Carlisle Canning Kitchen had been rented. It is expected that these rooms, three in number will be ready and fitted up as soon as possible. All boys and young men of the Community will be welcome at these rooms, where

games, a reading room, etc may be enjoyed."
These rooms were located in the Old Wheat Tavern or Long Block, in the part then owned by Mrs. Nettie O. Wilson who conducted The Canning Kitchen. They were on the second floor of what is now the property of Clarence L. Russell in the center apartment where the Merton Eyers family is living.

Previously, Laymans League Meetings had been held at the homes of members, with perhaps an occasional meeting at Union Hall. After the Club Rooms were completed, League meetings were held there, as were also Church services during the time a new furnace was being installed in 1927.

New Heating System Installed - 1927

On January 3rd 1927, a Special Parish Meeting was called "To see if the Parish will vote to install a heating system in the church building." The first central heating system, a hot air furnace installed by W. A. Pack of Lowell in 1901 now proved inadequate and a larger one was needed. William F. Robbins, James S. Anthony and William Foss Jr. were appointed a Committee of three "to call for bids or estimates on the cost of the same and report at a future meeting."

The Committee reported at a meeting on January 23, 1927, that two bids had been received, "One on a steam plant for $1325. and another on hot air at a cost of $870. It was unanimously voted to appropriate

#1000. and install a hot air plant."
Later votes arranged for appropriations from interest on Church funds, and for other means of financing the project.
At the same Parish Meeting "a letter was received from the Trustees of the Congregational Church offering the use of their Church to us for the purpose of holding our services there. The offer was much appreciated and the Clerk was instructed to write them a letter of appreciation." At this time arrangements had been made to hold services at the League Club rooms so that the offer was not accepted.

Church Painted - 1927

This same year further improvements to the Church were made. At a Parish Meeting June 21, 1927, it was voted to "repair and paint the building". It was voted that the Parish Committee James H. Wilkens, William Foss Jr. and George E. Wilkens "be instructed to have charge of the work, buy the material and call for bids to do the labor." Further votes gave authority for financing the work to the Parish Trustees William W. Ricker, William Foss Jr. and George E. Wilkens.

Piano Purchased By Alliance - 1927

In the Spring of 1927 the Woman's Alliance voted to purchase a piano for the Hall," and the upright piano now in Union

Hall was bought at that time.

Term of Parish Committee Members Changed 1928

1) It was voted at the Annual Parish Meeting, April 4, 1928, "to amend Art 1 of the By-laws and elect the Parish Committee as follows - one for three years, one for two years and one for one yea's". The Parish Committee elected at this time was Geo. E. Wilkens for 3 years, James N. Wilkens for 2 years, and Charles Reynolds for one year.

At the same meeting it was voted that the Church be open for funerals to all connected with the Society.

2)

Bequest in Will of Sarah E. Hudson 1928

At a Special Parish Meeting in October, 1928 it was "Voted to gratefully accept the gift of $1000.00 from Sarah E. Hudson on the terms of the codicil of her will".

3)

Стерлинг

Return Of Rev. Mr. Shurtleff After Leave Of Absence-1929.

In 1928, Rev. and Mrs. Shurtleff with their two daughters went to La Jolla, California for a year and on Sunday, June 2 1929 Mr. Shurtleff returned to Carlisle.

"Sunday was a day of great rejoicing at the First Parish Unitarian Church, for it marked the home coming of the much beloved minister, Rev. Alfred C. H. Shurtleff, who, with his family, had just returned from a year's stay in La Jolla California. The church was specially decorated for the day with bouquets of cut flowers. Rev. Mr. Shurtleff preached and gave an account of his stay in California reading at the close of his sermon Whittier's poem "The Eternal Goodness." The Church quartet sang "I Will Praise Thee" by Ida B. Wilson. The choir members Miss Barbara Robbins, Miss Audrey Robbins, Donald Lapham and Arnold Lapham, wore their new vestments for the first time at this service"

Material for the black choir robes was acquired through the courtesy of William F. Robbins and the garments were made by Mrs. Nettie C. Wilson. The organist Fred E. Robbins also provided himself with a robe at this time.

"In the Sunday School, Rev. Mr. Shurtleff again took charge and the Bible story talk was on "Go Forward."

"At 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon a special vesper service was held in the church and was attended by a large congregation of townspeople and friends from Billerica, Bedford and Chelmsford. Rev. J. Vance Gaston of the Congregational Church had charge of the service which

was very impressive. Special music was given by Mrs. Achsah Simonds of Billerica who played two trumpet solos, 'The Lost Chord' by George B Tracey and 'My Dream' by Milton Welling. The Church quartet sang 'Teach Me Thy Way' by Carrie B. Adams. Mrs. James N. Wilkins assisted the organist with violin obligatos and also led the hymn singing. Rev. Ransom Fuller Carver of Billerica gave the responsive reading and also the prayer. Rev. Robert Schlacht Jr. of Bedford read the Scripture. Rev. Mr. Dalton gave a welcome to Rev. Mr. Shurtleff. Owing to a severe cold Rev. Lyman Heenmark of Chelmsford, although present was unable to take part in the program."

"Following the service a reception was held for Rev. Mr. Shurtleff after which refreshments were served in the parish hall, which was attractively decorated with many garden bouquets and ferns. The committee in charge of the reception and service included Mrs. Nettie O. Wilson, Mrs. Edward S. Pickes, Mrs. William Foss Jr. of the Woman's Branch Alliance; Fred F. Nickles, J. Philip Detsch and John L Stanchfield for the Laymen's League; Arnold Lakhand, Esther Wilkins and Elizabeth Pickes for 'Unity Guild, and Fred E. Robbins for the Sunday School, together with the Parish Committee James N. Wilkins, George E. Wilkins and Charles M. Reynolds."

Emma and Charles Forbush Fund Established 1922.

In the will of the late Charle Forbush of Carlisle, who died May 7, 1921, it was provided that the residue of his estate, after the payment of bills and a few specified bequests be paid to the First Parish Church, Unitarian, as a fund to be known as the Emma and Charle Forbush Fund, the income from the fund to be used for exterior repairs only on the Church building.

On April 5 1922 at the Annual Parish Meeting, Benjamin F. Blaisdell, William F. Robbins and George E. Wilkins were chosen a Committee to confer with the Executor of Mr. Forbush's estate. William F. Robbins secretary of the Committee reported for them at a Special Parish Meeting May 3, 1922. After hearing the Report, a careful and detailed one which was entered in the Parish Records, it was voted to leave the matter in the hands of the Executor Mr. Rudolph N. Curries.

The settlement of this estate was an involved procedure, and extended over a period of years. Finally, in June 1930 the estate was settled, the money provided for was received by the First Religious Society, and the fund established. There also came into the possession of the Society from the Charles Forbush Estate at this time nine acres of woodland.

Lowell Courier Citizen
Tuesday, August 26, 1930

Carlisle Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary Celebration
Sponsored By Laymans League 1930.

Celebration of the Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary, observed in so many cities and towns in Massachusetts was sponsored in Carlisle by the Laymans League of the First Parish Church.

"The Carlisle chapter of the Laymans League held its Tercentenary Celebration Held Saturday despite the inclement weather. Plans had been made to entertain several hundred but many were kept away. However, that the town should go on record as having had a part in the general observance the sponsoring organization carried out a large portion of the program scheduled."

"At noon the bells in the town's churches were rung, opening the program for the day. Eugene F. Seabo and William Wilkie were the tollers. The flag raising ceremony and accompanying trumpett solo were omitted because of the rain. The sports program scheduled to start at 12.30 o'clock and run till 3 o'clock in the afternoon, was cancelled. The activities were all held in halls or other sheltered spots. Union hall was the scene of a social hour in the afternoon and dancing began at 3 o'clock to continue until 4.30 o'clock. A Lowell orchestra played. A refreshment booth in the charge of J. Philip Deitsch was well patronized."

One of the main events of the day was that held in the First Parish Church beginning at 4.45 o'clock. The music was in charge of Fred E. Tobbins Church organist, who was assisted by Mrs.

Howard Y. Simonds Comrust and Russell Times, Soloist both of Billerica. Mr. Sidney A Bull, historian also of Billerica who lived for many years in Carlisle and has written its history, spoke on that subject, closing his remarks with the poem, "My Town". The address of the afternoon on "The Foundation of Massachusetts" was by Hon. John Jackson Walsh of Boston, "a former member of the State Senate and chairman of the Massachusetts tercentenary committee" who "gave an eloquent address and held the close attention of an appreciative audience." James N. Wilkins was master of ceremonies. The ushers were the following young ladies: "Miss Esther E. Willett, Miss Elizabeth Pickett, Miss Audrey Robbins, Miss Bertha Foss."

"Following this service there was a general get-together and supper was served in the Cafeteria in the Church dining room. From 8.30 until 11.45 p.m. dancing was enjoyed in Union Hall by a large gathering of both young and old."

"The flower show held in Union Hall from 12 o'clock noon until the end of the dancing was in itself a big feature and one that could hard been made a two-day affair. Never has this Town had anything that could compare with it. The entire building was one great mass of blooms. Gladiolus was the only flower used. ---- About 2000 blooms made up the display. The church auditorium was beautiful with another great display of these flowers and with the lighted candles about the pulpit made the interior of this beautiful old church

a most attractive setting. ---- This great display was from the Elmwood Farm Gardens at Chelmsford, Fred W. Park proprietor. Mr. Park (a Laymen's League member) had full charge of the show and was assisted in arranging the flowers by Misses Caroline Wright of Chelmsford and Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Robbins."

"The following committees had charge of the affair:

General Committee: Fred W. Park chairman; James N. Wilkens, Charles M. Reynolds, Philip Aletsch, James F. Wilkens, Fred E. Robbins.

Ringing church bells and flag raising: Eugene R. Leabo.

Sports: Richard B. Bates, chairman; Edward F. Kemp, Guy W. Clark and Arthur L. Hall.

Midway: James F. Wilkens, chairman; E. Joseph Clark, Kenneth and Allen Lauren.

Refreshment booth: J. Philip Aletsch, Chairman: Fred Kinsley, Arnold Lapham, Samuel Brown and James F. Anthony

Church service: James N. Wilkens, Daniel L. Chamberlin and Fred E. Robbins.

Reception Committee: George E. Wilkens, chairman; Mrs. George E. Wilkens, Sr. George F. Towle, Mrs. Edward F. Pickes, Mrs. William Foss Jr., Robert W. McAllister, Herbert T. Dutton, Mrs. Mary A. Green, Mrs. Daniel L. Chamberlin, Mrs. William A. Clark, George N. Heald, Charles A. Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Robbins.

Supper Committee: Charles M. Reynolds, Chairman; Jay Fisk, John L. Stanchfield, Harry Stearns, George Stearns, Donald Lapham.

Dance: Fred W. Park, Chairman; James N. Wilkens, Fred F. Pickles.

Electrician: Arnold Lapham
Advertising: Fred W. Falk, James S. Anthony, Fred E. Robbins."

"Among the former residents and visitors present were: Judge Frederic A. Fisher and Col. Charles Stevens of Lowell, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney A. Bull, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Bull of Billerica, Louis Pfeiffer of Bedford, Edward J. Robbins of Chelmsford, Oscar Spalding of Westford, Miss Edna F. Currier of Newburyport."

"The outdoor events were postponed and will be held on Saturday afternoon and evening, Sept. 6."

Resignation of Rev. Alfred L. T. Shurtleff - 1930

Rev. Mr. Shurtleff continued as pastor of the First Religious Society for a years and a half after his return from California. His eyes which had given him trouble for some time became so much worse that he finally found it necessary to give up his active ministry, and his resignation took effect December 1, 1930.

For some time Mr. Shurtleff's eyes were so bad that he learned the braille system and carried on correspondence in braille with others who were unable to use their eyes. Fortunately Mr. Shurtleff's sight at length improved greatly so that he was able to use his eyes again.

His work since, however has been almost entirely with the blind. He has brought cheer to countless blind people with his letters and sermons in braille. In his book of short sermons published in 1939 called "Lighted Candles" after relating how he first lighted his candle on Beacon Hill, Mr. Shurtleff says:

"It is with grateful remembrance that I recall these facts as I prepare the following pages for publication. I think of each page as a candle-gleam, shining out to lighten the way for any who may look towards it."

"All of these 'sermonettes' have been published before, - but in Braille - each one appearing in a magazine, 'Our Special,' which is embossed in raised type for those who can read only with their fingers. The response which has come from these sightless readers has been surprising and

most gratifying; and it is largely at the suggestion and request of these friends that my 'sermonettes' are now gathered into a single sub-printed volume, that sighted readers may share in their messages."

Rev. Mr. Shurtleff's work now is carried on from his home at Framingham Centre and is connected with the Department for the Blind of the Shut-in Society with headquarters in New York City.

Death Of Parish Clerk - 1931

Mr. James S. Anthony, who had been Parish Clerk since April 26, 1902 died on January 20, 1931. J. Philip Deitsch was chosen Parish Clerk to succeed Mr. Anthony and has served as Clerk since that time.

Increase In Rent Of Union Hall - 1931, 1932

At the Annual Parish Meeting of the First Religious Society April 7, 1931, it was brought to the attention of the Parish that the rental charged the Town for Union Hall was less than the cost of maintaining the Hall. After general discussion during which it was suggested that the Hall be closed to the public (thus eliminating the payment of taxes), it was voted that the Town be charged $6.00. for the rent of Union Hall.

At the Annual Parish Meeting April 6, 1932, a letter was read from the Board of Selectmen in which they offered $350. for the use of Union Hall for fifteen times during a year, and $20. for each additional time it might be used. It was voted that "past action taken in regard to the rent of Union Hall be rescinded." It was finally voted to leave the matter of the rent of Union Hall in the hands of the Parish Committee, and they subsequently voted to accept the offer made by the Selectmen for the Town.

Town Records. Book 12. Pages 135 and 143 -
Article 10.

Records Of The Carlisle Chapter Of
The Laymans League.

Public Lecture On Town Zoning Sponsored By Laymans League - 1931.

The Laymans League of the First Parish Church has concerned itself frequently in movements of civic interest. In 1931, the first steps in what proved to be a most desirable Town project were encouraged in a public lecture sponsored by the Laymans League.

One of the Leage members James N. Wilkins, had for some time urged the desirability of Town Planning and Zoning, and had been instrumental in having inserted in the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in February, 1931, an article "To see if the Town will appoint a Committee to investigate the matter of Zoning laws for this Town or act thereon". Three citizens, James N. Wilkins, Jay Fisk and J. Philip Delsch were chosen to investigate the matter and report at the next Town Meeting.

These men were all members of the Laymans League, and since after investigation it seemed to them desirable to acquaint the citizens of the town with more information about Town Planning and Zoning, the members of the League decided to secure a speaker on the subject to address all interested townspeople. James N. Wilkins, Fred E. Robbins, President, Harry B. Stearns and J. Philip Delsch were chosen a Committee to have charge of an open meeting.

"An open meeting of the Carlisle Chapter of the Laymans League was held in Union Hall Friday Evening October 16th. James N. Wilkins presided and introduced the speaker of the evening,

Mr. Edward T. Waitman of the Mass. Dept. of Public Welfare who gave a very interesting talk on the subject of "Town Planning and Zoning" He handled his subject very thoroughly and the gathering gave him a hearty vote of thanks. Over forty were present."

Through this meeting, and other means, sufficient interest was aroused in the subject so that a Town Planning Board was established in 1932, and a Zoning Ordinance adopted by the Town in 1933, both measures which have proved valuable to the Town.

Union Christmas Service and Tree - 1931.

In 1931, the following newspaper item announced union Christmas observance by the two churches.

"Carlisle is to have this year a big Christmas event. A union Christmas Church service of both societies will be held Sunday morning Dec. 20.- A community Christmas tree will also be held with the Men's Brotherhood and the Ladies Circle of the Congregational Church together with the Woman's Branch Alliance and the Layman's League of the First Parish Unitarian Church sponsoring the affair."

"Everyone in town, both adults and children, will be invited to join in these holiday festivities. Every effort is to be made to make the two events unusually fine and a large committee from the four Church organizations has been chosen to take charge. A meeting is to be held Monday evening at 8 o'clock in the vestry of the Congregational Church to perfect plans for these two services."

Later it was announced - "The large committee of townspeople in charge of the community Christmas tree and program, has everything in readiness for the event to be held in the Congregational Church on Wednesday evening, Dec. 23, at 7.45 o'clock. Every child of school and pre-school age will have a gift on the tree and a fine program has been prepared. It is hoped by the committee everyone will try and bring those who have no way of transportation, and anyone wishing for transportation can phone

- Scrapbook -

Allister F. MacDougall or Fred E. Robbins at sometime not later than 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, and thus means any one in town."

The first Christmas event planned was the union church service on the Sunday morning before Christmas. "In the First Parish Church, Unitarian, a union service was held in the morning. Special music and decorations were a feature. An excellent musical program was rendered by a double quartet, and a Christmas sermon was preached by Rev. J. Tanos Garton, minister of the Congregational Church, who took full charge of the service. The auditorium was arranged with banks of trees, baskets of fir and poinsettias and wreaths. Tall lighted tapers were the only pulpit decorations."

The Community Christmas tree was held the following Wednesday evening at the Congregational Church. "There was a capacity audience. Both the auditorium and the chapel were beautifully decorated for this occasion and made a most attractive setting. Spruce and poinsettias arranged in large baskets filled the windows while trees were used to great advantage."

"An excellent program was given in the auditorium at 8 o'clock. Allister F. MacDougall had charge of the program. Mrs. Laurence R. Shuttleff led the Carol singing and Fred E Robbins was the pianist for the evening. The program was as follows: Carol 'O Come All Ye Faithful', Children; prayer, Rev. J. Tanos Garton; poem 'Christmas Everywhere'; Carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'; solo, 'Silent Night, Holy Night', Mrs Olive Watson

accompanied by Helen Batson her sister; Christmas story of 'The Living Christmas Tree', read by Mrs Alden T. Davis; story, 'Wapi's Christmas' Mary Pickles; carol 'Hark! the Herald Angels Sing'; Christmas story; solo, 'I Came Upon the Midnight Clear' Miss Barbara F. Robbins; story, 'The First Christmas'; carol, 'Joy To the World The Lord Is Come'."

"At the close a jingling of bells was heard outside and soon Santa Claus in his flaming red and white suit, appeared with a huge pack on his back. He welcomed everyone, especially the children. He gave them an excellent talk and then invited them to follow him to the church chapel where a gaily decorated tree awaited them. The platform was ablaze with colored electric lights from many small trees. Santa Claus gave out the gifts, each child being remembered. Allister F. MacDougall and Fred E. Robbins assisted him in this big task. To Mr. and Mrs. George Nobbs goes out a hearty vote of thanks from all the children for the generous basket of animal lolly pops which they contributed." (These were made by Mrs. Nobbs.)

The Committees which had charge of the event were as follows -

"General committee Mrs. Benson F. Wilkins, president of the Ladies Circle; Mrs. Charles M. Reynolds, president of the Womans Branch Alliance; Allister F. MacDougall, president of the Open Brotherhood; and Fred E. Robbins, president of the Unitarian Laymans League; music Committee Fred E. Robbins, Chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence K. Lunt, Allister F.

- Scrapbook -

Mac Dougall, Mrs. Herbert A. Lee and Mrs. Eugene F. Beárce; decorating committee, Mrs. Anna N. Barrett, Chairman, Mrs. Edward F. Hickey, Mrs. Frank J. Biggi, Mrs. Alden R. Davis, Paul Swanson, Harry B. Stearns and Charles M. Reynolds; committee on Christmas tree, Guy W. Clark, Chairman, Albert Morani, Eugene F. Bearce, and Arthur T. Lapham; gift committee, Mrs. Charles M. Reynolds, Mrs. Allister F. Mac Dougall, Mrs. Fred E. Robbins, Mrs. William H. Robbins, Mrs. Ernest N. Wilkins, Mrs. Esther Carcano; transportation, John Davis; invitations, James N. Wilkins, George E. Wilkins, Nathaniel G. Hill, Donald Lapham, Herbert G. Sutton, Frank E. Wilkins and J. Ramos Taylor."

"The evening was sponsored by the Laymans League, Mens Brotherhood, Ladies Circle, Womans Branch Alliance, and the Parent-Teacher Association."

Supper Served at Woburn Association Conference 1932.

The Spring Meeting of the Woburn Association of Congregational Churches in 1932 was held at the Congregational Church in Carlisle. Because of the large number of people to be accomodated, arrangements were made with the Womans Alliance of the First Parish Church to also serve supper in their dining hall.

"There were 225 at the supper, this being served in both the Congregational and First Parish (Unitarian) Churches. The tables were decorated with cut flowers.

The same menu was served by both churches. The supper committee which had general charge was composed of Mrs. Alden R. Davis and Mrs. Jay Fisk of the Congregational Church, and at the First Parish Unitarian Church. Those in charge were Mrs. Edward S. Pickes, president of the Womans Branch Alliance, Mrs. Mary Lapham and Mrs. Charles M. Reynolds. They were very ably assisted by the ladies of the churches."

"The hostesses at the Congregational Church were Mrs. Harry B. Stearns, Mrs. Edmund L. French, Mrs. Paul Swanson and Mrs. Kenneth Seaburg. The following young women served in the dining room: Louise MacDougall, Virginia Biggs, Helen Batson, Phyllis Babcock, Marion Curries, Gertrude Knutsen, Ruth Davis and Florence Duren."

"At the First Parish Church the hostesses were Mrs. Fred E. Robbins and Mrs. William F. Robbins. The waitresses were Mrs. Esther Carcano, Dorothy Varney, Gertrude Moison, Madeline Vorhfeld, Elizabeth Picker, Martha Foss, Bertha Foss, Audrey Robbins, Patricia J. Robbins and Mrs. Isaac N. Knight."

Rev. Joseph F. MacCarthy, 1931-1932.

After Mr. Shurtleff's resignation at the close of the year in 1930, various supplies and candidates were heard. At a Parish Meeting on January 17, 1932, it was voted to invite Rev. Joseph F. MacCarthy who had been supplying the pulpit, to preach until July first.

Rev. Frederic W. Smith, 1932-1936.

After the summer vacation in 1932 Rev. Frederic W. Smith of Lynn was invited by the Parish Committee, and came to Carlisle each Sunday. At the Annual Parish Meeting on April 10, 1933, the Parish members approved the action of the Parish Committee in having Mr. Smith until July. At a later meeting on June 21, 1933, it was voted unanimously to invite Mr. Smith after the summer vacation.

Rev. Frederic W. Smith was born in Peterborough, N. H. on February 23, 1869, son of William A. and Augusta F. (Ames) Smith. He studied at Francestown and Cushing Academies and then he took up his training for the ministry at Meadville Theological School. Later he took graduate work at the Harvard Divinity School. His previous pastorates were at the First Congregational Parish (Unitarian) at Duxbury, Mass., First Parish Church (Unitarian) in Bath, Mass., and the Church of Our Father in Newburgh, New York.

Rev. Mr. Smith was a frequent contributor to the Christian Register and

other religious journals, and to the daily papers in towns where he held parishes. When in Newburgh, he published a volume of addresses entitled "Some Timeless Messages Of The Christain Faith."

In October, 1932 Mr. Smith married Miss Elizabeth Fiske Warren of Chelmsford. The couple made their home in Chelmsford, coming to Carlisle every Sunday and at other times during the week. Mrs. Smith was soloist at the church, and her delightful soprano voice added greatly to the Sunday morning services.

Change In Conference - 1934.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, April 4, 1934 it was voted that the Society withdraw from the South Middlesex Conference, and join the North Middlesex Conference, officially known as the "North Middlesex Conference of Unitarian and Other Christian Churches" Arrangements were left in the hands of the Parish Committee, J. Philip Detsch, Nathaniel G. Hill and Mrs. Mary Lapham, and the change was made.

- Parish Records -

Grand Piano Presented First Religious Society - 1934.

In 1934 the First Religious Society received the gift of a concert grand piano from Miss Caroline E. Hill who moved from Winchester to Carlisle at that time.

The piano, a fine Chickering instrument was placed in Union Hall, where it was felt it would be most accessible, and could be enjoyed by the largest number of people.

The First Religious Society and all who use or hear the piano greatly appreciate Miss Hill's generous gift.

Report Of Alliance Work At Parish Meeting - 1935.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, April 3, 1935 "Mrs. Ruth M. Robbins, Treasurer of the Womans Branch Alliance, was requested to read for the information of the meeting that portion of a report which she made at a recent meeting of the Alliance relative to the amount of money which the Alliance contributed to the support of the Church from 1921 to 1935. During the period from 1921 to 1935 inclusive the Womans Branch Alliance turned into the Church Treasury the sum of #4902.48. The Alliance was given a rising vote of thanks and appreciation for their whole hearted support of the Church."